

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

USSAGE NAKHON PHANOM

CINCPAC HONOLULU

COGARD

TREASURY

XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

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COGARD FOR POLAD

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SUBJECT:JULY 11 EA PRESS SUMMARY

INDOCHINA

1. FOUR MEMBERS OF COMMUNITY FOR CREATIVE NON-VIOLENCE,
ORGANIZATION OPPOSED TO US INVOLVEMENT IN VN, FOUND
GUILTY OF DESTROYING PROPERTY OF FOREIGN GOVT. AND
FACE POSSIBLE MAXIMUM PENALTIES OF FIVE YEARS IN
PRISON AND 10,000 DOLLAR FINE. ACTIVISTS DID NOT
DISPUTE CHARGE OF POURING BLOOD ON DOCUMENTS DURING
UNCLASSIFIED

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APRIL 12 RAID ON VN OVERSEAS PROCUREMENT OFFICE; ONE
SAYS US FUNDS OSTENSIBLY USED FOR FOOD AND OTHER
COMMODITIES ARE ACTUALLY BEING DIVERTED "TO PROP UP
A CORRUPT REGIME" IN VN (PIKE, S-N 7/10). FOUR

DEMONSTRATORS FROM WASHINGTON-BASED COMMUNITY FOR CREATIVE NONVIOLENCE ARRESTED JULY 10 WHEN THEY ENTERED VN OVERSEAS PROCUREMENT AGENCY AND POURED WHAT GUARDS SAID WAS RED PAINT OVER FILES (UPI, NYT).

2. IN WASHINGTON VN EMBASSY MINISTER HIEN SAYS HIS COUNTRY HOPES TO END RICE IMPORTS NEXT YEAR AND BECOME AN EXPORTER BY 1976. RICE IMPORTS NOW RANGE UP TO 300,000 TONS ANNUALLY. HIEN ADDS THAT SVN ALSO HOPES TO RAISE EXPORTS OF SEAFOOD, RUBBER, AND

"ESPECIALLY LUMBER"; SVN ALSO HOPES THAT SUBSTANTIAL OFFSHORE PETROLEUM DEPOSITS WILL BE FOUND (COMMODITY NEWS SERVICE, JOC).

3. VC SPOKESMAN IN SAIGON SAYS VNAF CAUSED HEAVY LOSS OF LIFE AND PROPERTY DAMAGE IN RAIDS CLOSE TO KHMER BORDER OVER LAST TWO DAYS. GVN MIL SOURCES REPORT ABOUT 60 VNAF SORTIES IN PAST TWO DAYS AGAINST COMMUNIST REINFORCEMENTS MOVING FROM CAMBODIA TO BASE AREAS NW OF SAIGON (REUTER SAIGON).

4. RELIABLE SOURCES REPORT LAO CABINET DECIDES TO DISSOLVE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND HOLD ELECTION FOR NEW MEMBERS OF 60-MAN ASSEMBLY WITHIN 90 DAYS OF OFFICIAL DISSOLUTION ANNOUNCEMENT. SOURCES INDICATE THAT ELECTIONS WOULD BE LIMITED TO CERTAIN CATEGORIES, SUCH AS VILLAGE CHIEFS, CIVIL SERVANTS, POLICE OR MILITARY (CHITRIB).

CHINA

5. CHATTING WITH YOUNGEST MEMBERS OF WUSHU COMPANY, HAK'S QUERY -- "DO YOU THINK I COULD LEARN?" -- DREW LAUGHTER FROM LITTLE TROUPERS. WP'S RADCLIFFE REPORTS SECRETARY DESCRIBED THEIR REACTION AS "THE UNCLASSIFIED

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POLITE CHINESE WAY," AND APPEARED TO GIVE UP ONCE AND FOR ALL ANY NOTIONS OF TRYING WUSHU WEAPONRY IN HIS STYLE OF DIPLOMATIC AGILITY.

6. REUTER SAN JUAN (7/10) REPORTS INTERNATIONAL BASKETBALL FEDERATION WEDNESDAY RE-ADMITTED PRC TO MEMBERSHIP AND SUSPENDED ROC BY 15-5 VOTE, WITH TWO ABSTENTIONS. MEETING IN PUERTO RICO, FEDERATION'S CENTRAL BUREAU ACCUSED ROC OF "MISUSING THE NAME 'CHINA'" BUT GAVE NO ELABORATION. US, BRAZIL, ECUADOR, CAR AND SK VOTED AGAINST PEKING'S RE-ADMISSION.

7. GROC ECON MINISTRY STATISTICS SHOW JAPAN HAS REPLACED

US AS BIGGEST MARKET FOR TAIWAN'S GARMENTS. MINISTRY ATTRIBUTED INCREASE TO HIGH COST OF PRODUCTION IN JAPAN (AFP, WP). UPI REPORTS ROC SOURCES SAYING THAT JAPANESE INVESTMENTS CONTINUING TO POUR INTO TAIWAN DESPITE SEVERED TAIPEI-TOKYO AIR ROUTE, AND THAT JAPAN HAS OVERTAKEN US AS COUNTRY WITH BIGGEST INVESTMENT STAKE IN TAIWAN (JOC).

JAPAN

8. SEVERAL TOKYO VETERINARIANS REPORT TREATING ALARMING NUMBER OF AILING CATS FOUND TO HAVE HIGH LEVELS OF MERCURY. TOKYO'S INSTITUTE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION HAS BEGUN TESTING FISHERMEN, FISH MARKET EMPLOYEES, AND RAW FISH RESTAURANT EMPLOYEES, WHO EAT LARGE QUANTITIES OF FISH. NONE HAS YET DISPLAYED SYMPTOMS OF MERCURY POISONING, BUT BASED ON FINDINGS WITH CATS, BUILD-UP OF HEAVY CONCENTRATIONS FEARED (NYTNS, CHITRIB).

9. DOLLAR RISES AGAINST YEN AGAIN ON TOKYO'S FOREIGN EXCHANGE MARKET, REACHING 289.50, ITS HIGHEST RATE SINCE MARCH. YEN'S STEADY DECLINE OVER 2-WEEK PERIOD ATTRIBUTED TO DEMAND FOR DOLLARS TO PAY FOR IMPORTS, OVERVALUATION DUE TO INFLATION, OIL IMPORT COSTS, AND STEEP WAGE HIKES. BUT JAPANESE BUSINESSMEN CONFIDENT YEN WILL NOT SLIP TOO FAR (NYT). DOLLAR FARED STRONGLY AGAINST YEN ON NY EXCHANGE AS WELL UNCLASSIFIED

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(JOC).

10. NISSAN SAYS ALL SMALL TRUCKS SOLD IN US TO BE BUILT HERE AFTER NEXT MONTH (REUTER NYT, WP; CHITRIB).

TOYOTA REPORTS PRODUCTION DOWN 16.2 PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR'S FIRST HALF TOTAL (REUTER, WP), BUT EXPORTS ROSE 24 PERCENT (WSJ).

11. JAPAN QUALITY ASSN. SURVEYS FIND AMERICAN TOURISTS LARGEST GROUP AND BIGGEST SPENDERS WHILE IN JAPAN (AP, NYT).

KOREA

12. REUTER SEOUL REPORTS COURT-MARTIAL SENTENCED 7 LEFTISTS TO DEATH THURSDAY FOR PLOTTING WITH STUDENTS TO OVERTHROW GOVT. LAST APRIL.

PROSECUTION HAD DEMANDED DEATH FOR POET KIM CHI HA AND 6 CO-DEFENDANTS, 15 YEARS TO LIFE FOR OTHERS IN GROUP OF 55, MAINLY STUDENTS, ON TRIAL BEFORE

MILITARY COURT ON CHARGES OF ATTEMPTING OVERTHROW OF PARK GOVT AND ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMUNIST REGIME (GLOBE). HOWEVER, TWO JAPANESE DEFENDANTS NOT INCLUDED IN PROSECUTION SENTENCING DEMANDS, AND NO EXPLANATION OFFERED (AP, NYT).

ROMAN CATHOLIC BISHOP FREED AFTER BEING HELD 4 DAYS BY KCIA FOR QUESTIONING IN CONNECTION WITH ALLEGED PLOT TO OVERTHROW GOVT. BISHOP SUSPECTED OF GIVING FUNDS TO POET KIM CHI HA, WHO IS ALLEGED TO HAVE PASSED THEM ON TO DISSIDENT STUDENT GROUP. NOT KNOWN WHETHER BISHOP CLEARED OF SUSPICION (REUTER SEOUL).

AUSTRALIA

13. MORNING RADIO REPORTS SINATRA WILL CONTINUE WITH FOUR CONCERTS SCHEDULED FOR MELBOURNE AND SYDNEY; LABOR REPORTEDLY "BACKED DOWN" AND SINGER MADE NO UNCLASSIFIED

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APOLOGY FOR REMARKS.

PRESS PLAYS UP SINATRA'S TROUBLES DOWN UNDER, WITH NYDN DEVOTING ENTIRE FRONT PAGE (2 PICTURES, BANER HEADLINE) AND MOST OF SECOND PAGE TO STORY. UNION MEMBERS SEEMINGLY HAD FORCED SINGER TO CANCEL TOUR, BLOCKED HIM FROM LEAVING COUNTRY BY CUTTING OFF FUEL TO PRIVATE JET, AND CUT OFF HIS HOTEL SERVICE AFTER HE CALLED AUSTRALIAN REPORTERS "BUMS" AND "PARASITES," AUSSIE WOMEN REPORTERS "1.50 DOLLAR HOOKERS," AND HIS BODYGUARDS BEAT UP THREE NEWSMEN. "OLD BLUE EYES" LAWYER SAID SINATRA UNDER "MISTAKEN" IMPRESSION THAT AUSTRALIA "TRUE, FREE DEMOCRACY" (WP; CHITRIB; NYT).

AUSTRALIA/NZ

14. NZ PRODUCTION OF MEAT FOR EXPORT DOWN SLIGHTLY FROM SIMILAR '72-73 PERIOD, WHILE AUSTRALIAN OUTPUT FOR FIRST 8 MONTHS UP SLIGHTLY OVER SIMILAR PERIOD LAST SEASON (JOC).

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS
CHINA

15. GLOBE AND MAIL'S JOHN BURNS (CSM, JULY 11) IN PEKING REPORTS WOMAN PARTY MEMBER, HSUEH PAO-JEN, IN NEW POSTER TUESDAY ATTACKING AUTHORITIES FOR SURREPTITIOUSLY REMOVING POSTERS AT NIGHT- HER ATTACKS IMPLIED THAT LOCAL "REVISIONIST" ELEMENTS ARE BEHIND

REMOVAL OF POSTERS, TWO-THIRDS OF WHICH DISAPPEARED IN PAST WEEK. HSUEH HAD MADE CHARGES OF REVISIONISM IN TWO PREVIOUS POSTERS. SHE ALLEGED THAT LEADERS OF PEKING REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE WERE DRAGGING THEIR FEET ON ANTI-RIGHTIST DRIVE, AND ACTIVELY SUPPRESSING ALL ATTEMPTS TO BRING THEM TO BOOK.

EARLIER PROTESTS WERE AMONG CASUALTIES OF SUDDEN PURGE THAT REDUCED POSTER DISPLAY LATE LAST WEEK. OVER PERIOD OF THREE NIGHTS, DOZENS WERE RIPPED UNCLASSIFIED

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OFF WALLS NEAR REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE'S OFFICES. AT FIRST PURGE APPEARED LIMITED TO POSTERS TELLING OF FACTIONAL STRIFE IN PROVINCES AND ELABORATIONS OF PERSONAL GRIEVANCES AGAINST THE BUREAUCRACY - AS THOUGH PARTY LEADERS HAD DECIDED THE PROTESTS WERE GETTING OUT OF HAND AND SHOULD BE LIMITED TO SITUATION IN PEKING. HOWEVER, EVEN CHARGES AGAINST LOCAL LEADERSHIP HAVE NOW BEEN TORN DOWN. HARD TO KNOW WHAT TO MAKE OF THIS, ESPECIALLY SINCE REPORTS REACHING PEKING FROM PROVINCIAL CITIES INDICATE POSTER CAMPAIGN IS IN FULL SWING AND CONDEMNATION OF LOCAL LEADERS, MANY OF THEM STILL PERFORMING THEIR DUTIES, ARE COMMONPLACE. THIS SEEMS TO INDICATE THERE HAS BEEN NO DIRECTIVE FROM CENTRAL COMMITTEE TO SUPPRESS CRITICISM. ON OTHER HAND, IT IS DIFFICULT TO ENVISION LOCAL LEADERS IN PEKING, EVEN INCLUDING AS THEY DO A HIGH-RANKING MEMBER OF PARTY LEADERSHIP AT NATIONAL LEVEL, ATTEMPTING TO SUBVERT POSTER CAMPAIGN AGAINST EXPRESSED WISHES OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE, WHICH AUTHORIZED IT IN THE FIRST PLACE.

NOBODY IN PEKING BELIEVES THAT THE LAST HAS BEEN HEARD OF STARTLING POSTER CHARGES; REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER IT IS THE PRELUDE TO PURGES. OFFICIAL PRONOUNCEMENTS STRESSING NEED FOR PARTY DISCIPLINE AND CONTINUED PRODUCTION MAKE IT CLEAR THAT WHOLESALE PURGES AND DISRUPTION OF GPCR WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO RECUR, BUT HIGHLY IMPROBABLE THAT POLITICAL STATUS QUO CAN SURVIVE ONSLAUGHT OF CHARGES.

16. IN WP SOCIETY/ARTS PAGES, KRIEGSMAN CALLS PRC WUSHU COMPANY, PERFORMING AT KENNEDY CENTER, "SPECTACULAR. AND IT'S PRIMARILY SPECTACLE THAT THEY BRING." SUGGESTS THAT "MAYBE SHOW-BIZ IS THE BEST ROUTE TO DETENTE. CERTAINLY IT SEEMED TO BE WINNING FRIENDS AND SPURRING CHEERS LAST NIGHT" BEFORE "CLOSE TO SELL-OUT" CROWD. SAYS "AGILITY, VELOCITY AND CONTROL OF THESE PERFORMERS WOULD DO CREDIT TO THE MOST CELEBRATED TEAMS OR ARTISTIC COMPANIES ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD." TROUPE CAN TURN

MARTIAL ART FORM INTO "HIGHLY EXPRESSIVE, SOMETIMES
UNCLASSIFIED

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DRAMATIC, SOMETIMES POETIC, SOMETIMES COMIC ACT."
KRIEGSMAN CONCLUDES THAT WITH "INCREASING THAW IN
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, AND THE VISITS OF TROUPE
LIKE THE SHENYANG ACROBATS, LAST YEAR AND NOW,
THE WUSHU, THE LIKELIHOOD OF ARMED CLASH IS PERHAPS
REMOTE OR SO WE CERTAINLY HOPE. NEVERTHELESS,
I ADD THIS FINAL NOTE TO MYSELF -- IN THE EVENT
OF HOSTILITIES WITH CHINA, SHOULD I BE CALLED UPON
TO SERVE, AVOID HAND-TO-HAND COMBAT AT ALL COSTS."

THAILAND

17. WP'S JOHN BURGESS IN BANGKOK VIEWS LAST WEEK'S
CHINATOWN DISTURBANCE AS NOT A SIMPLE RACE RIOT,
SINCE THERE WERE NO MOBS OF THAIS AND CHINESE
ATTACKING EACH OTHER; BUT THERE WERE DEFINITE
RACIAL OVERTONES. CHINESE ELITE WERE APPARENTLY
CONCERNED THAT VIOLENCE MIGHT BE INTERPRETED AS
DISLOYALTY, UPSETTING THEIR POSITION AND BRINGING
THAI NATIONALISTIC BACKLASH. THUS, CHINESE
NEWSPAPERS AND COMMUNITY LEADERS WERE IN CLOSE
CONTACT WITH GOVT. AND ISSUED STATEMENTS AND PUBLISHED
EDITORIALS CALLING ON ALL CHINESE TO OBEY POLICE
AND STAY AWAY FROM FIGHTING.

AT LOWER LEVELS HOWEVER, SUPPORT FOR POLICE SEEMED
LESS THAN ENTHUSIASTIC. CONVERSATIONS WITH SHOPKEEPERS
AND RESIDENTS OF RIOT AREA BROUGHT NO REAL CONDEMNATION
OF RIOTERS, MANY OF WHOM WERE STREET-GANG MEMBERS,
BUT MUCH BITTERNESS OVER POLICE VIOLENCE. OTHERS TOLD
OF HAVING TO GIVE POLICE CASH "GIFTS" ON HOLIDAYS AND
BRIBES TO RENEW LICENSES, ETC. ABUSES NOT LIMITED TO
CHINESE SECTIONS, BUT ARE MORE EXTREME THERE.
CHINESE MERCHANTS HAVE MORE MONEY TO PAY POLICE, AND
MANY HAVE ALIEN CARDS, WHICH MUST BE RENEWED EACH YEAR,
MAKING THEM MORE SUSCEPTIBLE TO BULLYING.

CHINESE ELITE SEEM MORE INTERESTED IN MAKING THE
PUBLIC FORGET LAST WEEK'S VIOLENCE THAN IN RECTIFYING
CONDITION THAT BROUGHT IT ON, AND APPEAR TO ACCEPT
CORRUPTION AS ONE OF PRICES THEY MUST PAY FOR THEIR
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DOMINATION OF ECONOMY.

INDOCHINA

18. EX-AMBASSADOR YOST (CSM) LISTS AMONG ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE MOSCOW SUMMIT, PRES. AND BREZHNEV TOGETHER URGING THAT THE INDOCHINA ACCORDS BE IMPLEMENTED.

AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND

19. CSM'S DAVID KIRP IN JAMAICA DESCRIBES AMERICAN INVESTORS' ANGER OVER SIZE OF RECENT JAMAICAN TAX ON BAUXITE AND HIGH-HANDED WAY IN WHICH IT WAS IMPOSED. INVESTORS ARE BEGINNING TO EXPLORE VAST, AND QUITE POSSIBLY CHEAPER, BAUXITE RESERVES IN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND.

GENERAL

20. REFERRING TO HAK'S POST-MOSCOW SUMMIT CLAIM THAT "BOTH SIDES HAVE TO CONVINCE THEIR MILITARY ESTABLISHMENTS OF THE BENEFIT OF RESTRAINT," HIS SUBSEQUENT INVITATION TO NATIONAL DEBATE TO DEFINE "STRATEGIC SUPERIORITY," AND HIS FUTILE DEFENSE AGAINST WIRETAPPING AND "PLUMBERS" CHARGES, JOE KRAFT (WP, SUN) SAYS KISSINGER HAS BEEN SYSTEMATICALLY PICKING FIGHTS HE DOESN'T NEED AND TAKING POSITIONS HE CANNOT DEFEND. KRAFT MAINTAINS THAT HAK ALREADY HAS PLENTY OF PROBLEMS; AMONG THEM, THE VN SETTLEMENT - A CHIEF ACCOMPLISHMENT - WHICH COULD BECOME UNRAVELLED. ALSO, THE CHINESE, AS WITNESS THEIR RECEPTION OF SENATOR JACKSON, HAVE DOUBTS ABOUT THE STAYING POWER OF THE NIXON ADMIN. KISSINGER

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